In The Sp cification

Please substitute paragraphs in applicant's originally submitted application with the following amended paragraphs:

The last paragraph beginning on page 7, line 25 and ending on page 8, line 17:

Step 22 follows step 20, and in this step, all permissible combinations of components suppliers and all final assembly or products suppliers are dynamically and automatically created or identified. Step 24 follows step 22, and in this step, all of the products and groups of components which may selectively form the product are evaluated by use of the previously created tangible and intangible constraints. That is, the products and components which are "sourced" by these suppliers are "evaluated" in order to ensure that they respectively meet the previously identified technical and intangible requirements. The last step of process 10 requires that a recommendation be issued or generated which specifies the identity of the desired final assembly provided or combination of component providers. It should be realized that the supplier search may be done at substantially the same time as the attributes are created within step 18. The recommendations may be used to purchase and/or otherwise acquire a product (Step 66).

The first full paragraph beginning on page 9, line 25 and ending on page 10, line 16:

In order to allow the data or information to be efficiently categorized and acquired, each supplier 36, 38 is required to have a template such as template 50 in Figure 2. Particularly, template 50 includes a first dynamically configurable and searchable field 52 which identifies an item (i.e. a final assembly or component). Template 50 further includes a dynamically configurable and searchable field 54 which specifies the physical attributes of the item and a dynamically configurable and searchable field 56 which specifies the attributes related to the interrelationship of this item to other items or components. An intangible field 57 is also used to specify the cost, availability, and other intangible attributes. These templates 50 are created for each component, product or final assembly which is produced by each respective supplier 36, 28 (Step 29)and are dynamically updated to allow modifications and changes to be made to the products and to reflect the creation of new products and components. The information on these templates is then used, by purchaser 32, to determine whether a certain provided product or a certain provided component in combination with one or more other components meets the needs of the organization (Step 40). In

other non-limiting embodiments, computerized design files may be transmitted by the potential supplier 36, 38 to the purchaser 32 (Step 60), effective to allow the purchaser 32 to determine whether the sourced components and/or product meets the technical need of the organization by causing a design file to be created (Step 58). These files may also selectively be used to construct a three dimensional prototype (Step 62) as described within the text entitled Direct Engineering-Toward Intelligent Manufacturing edited by Ali K. Kamrani and Peter R. Sferro (Kluwer Academic Publishers), ISBN 0-7923-8338-9, which is fully and completely incorporated herein by reference. These templates 50 may also be manually searched by an individual, effective to allow for human cognitive product and component identification. Moreover, each template 50 may be selectively stored within a single database (Step 64).

In The Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 13, and 15 and add claim 16 as follows:

(1) (Amended) A method for purchasing a product comprising the steps of:

identifying a plurality of suppliers;

creating an information template for each of the plurality of suppliers;